

Application No.: 10/797,713

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REMARKS

Claims 1, and 17-44 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 29-32 and 34-36 have been cancelled and claims 17 and 33 has been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found, for example, throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Specifically, support can be found in claim 29 as filed. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 17-28 and 37-44 Under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-28 and 37-44 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Halliburton (USPN:2,609,878). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, while in no way acquiescing to the validity of the Examiner's rejection, and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 17 to include the subject matter of claim 29.

The Examiner indicated on page 5 of the Office Action that claim 29 would be allowable if written in independent form. Therefore, Applicants believe that claim 17 is allowable. Moreover, all pending claims depend from claim 17 and thus Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference with the Applicant's Agent would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Dated: April 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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